

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 (original): A hybridization method which hybridizes biopolymers fixed to a plurality of sites on a biochip substrate and biopolymers movable in fluid stored over the same substrate, on said substrate, further being devised that said biopolymers on the movable side are moved along a surface of said biochip substrate by making an electric field act along that surface of said biochip substrate.

2 (original): A hybridization method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the direction of moving biopolymers on said movable side is changed over by changing over the direction of said electric field during hybridization of said biopolymers.

3 (original): A hybridization method which hybridizes biopolymers fixed to a plurality of sites on a biochip substrate and biopolymers movable in fluid stored over the same substrate, on said substrate, further being devised that said biopolymers on the movable side are moved along a surface of said biochip substrate as well as are attracted towards the surface of said same biochip substrate by making an electric field and a magnetic field orthogonal to each other act along that surface of said biochip substrate.

4 (original): A hybridization method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the direction of moving biopolymers on said movable side is changed over by changing over the directions of said both electric field and magnetic field at the same time during hybridization of said biopolymers.

5 (original): Hybridization equipment comprising:
a biochip prepared by fixing biopolymers to a plurality of sites on a substrate, and
positive and negative electrodes for generating an electric field along the surface of this biochip substrate;
configured to move biopolymers movable in the fluid stored over said biochip substrate along the surface of said biochip substrate by making said electric field act along the surface of said biochip substrate.

6 (original): Hybridization equipment in accordance with claim 5, configured to change over the direction of moving biopolymers movable in said fluid during hybridization of said biopolymers by changing over the direction of said electric field.

7 (original): Hybridization equipment comprising:
a biochip prepared by fixing biopolymers to a plurality of sites on a substrate,
positive and negative electrodes for generating an electric field along the surface of this biochip substrate, and
a magnetic field generating means for generating a magnetic field along the surface of said biochip substrate;

configured to move biopolymers movable in the fluid stored over said biochip substrate along the surface of said biochip substrate as well as to attract said biopolymers towards the surface of said biochip substrate during hybridization of said biopolymers, by making said electric field and magnetic field act along the surface of said biochip substrate.

8 (original): Hybridization equipment in accordance with claim 7, configured to change over the direction of moving biopolymers on said movable side during hybridization of said biopolymers by changing over the directions of said electric and magnetic fields.

9 (original): Hybridization equipment in accordance with any of claims 5 to 8, wherein said positive and negative electrodes are attached to said substrate directly, or indirectly through fixing members so that said sites are sandwiched between said electrodes.

10 (currently amended): Hybridization equipment in accordance with any of claims 7 to ~~[[9]]~~ 8, wherein magnets are used or a coil is used for said magnetic field generating means.

11 (original): Hybridization equipment in accordance with claim 10, wherein said biochip substrate is placed inside said coil if said coil is employed for said magnetic field generating means.

12 (currently amended): Hybridization equipment in accordance with any of claims 5 to ~~[[9]]~~ 8, wherein a DC power supply or an AC power supply is used as the power supply to apply a voltage to said electrodes.

13 (currently amended): Hybridization equipment in accordance with any of claims 5 to ~~[[12]]~~ 8, wherein said fluid is liquid or gel.

14 (currently amended): Hybridization equipment in accordance with any of claims 5 to ~~[[13]]~~ 8, wherein said substrate is formed with a plate or wire or mesh.